COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

## Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0918

February 4, 2022

171 SW FLAGLER AVENUE STUART, FLORIDA 34994 (772) 781–3266

President Joe Biden 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20500

## Dear President Biden:

As members of the Florida delegation, we write to request that your FY23 budget request include a minimum of \$725 million in South Florida Ecosystem Restoration funding.

Unfortunately, last year, your request of \$350 million for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) fell short of what is needed to complete Everglades restoration on schedule. While it was suggested that funding from the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) could help make up the difference, we were greatly disappointed by the exclusion of funding for the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir in that bill. This project is the most critical component of CERP because it will allow more water to be sent south into the Everglades and drastically reduce toxic discharges to Florida's east and west coasts.

In fact, the EAA Reservoir's completion date has now been pushed back from 2028 to 2030, and without IIJA funding or ample FY23 funding, it will certainly slip farther behind schedule. Your FY23 budget request is, therefore, an opportunity to right this wrong by requesting robust overall funding for Everglades restoration, including sufficient funding to restore the EAA reservoir to its original completion date.

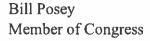
The Florida Everglades is a world-renowned, one-of-a-kind ecosystem that makes South Florida one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world. Not only does the Greater Everglades ecosystem provide natural beauty, but it provides water supply and natural flood protection for the communities that call the region home. Restoration of this treasure is non-negotiable, and as Governor DeSantis has proven, rapid progress is possible when leaders commit to getting it done with the necessary financial investment.

We are committed to working with you to ensure the beauty of the Everglades is preserved for future generations, so thank you in advance for ensuring that your stated commitment to the Everglades is backed up by action.

Sincerely,

Brian Mast Member of Congress Mario Diaz-Balart Member of Congress C. Scott Frankli

Scott Franklin Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar Member of Congress

Allenfalage

John H. Rutherford Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

The M. Bilitin

Carlos Gimenez Member of Congress

Byron Donalds Member of Congress Daniel Webster Member of Congress

Paniel Webster

Neal P. Dunn, M.D. Member of Congress Greg Steube Member of Congress Michael Waltz

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress